



JEFFREY L. BROWN, Executive Director

Administrative Operations

November 15, 2007

RE: Public Comment FY 2007-2008 QAP

Dear MSHDA Board:

Thank you for this additional opportunity to review and comment on the QAP. We appreciate MSHDA's commitment to the development of housing for our citizens with mental health and developmental - disabilities. The special needs set aside in FY 08 QAP provides desperately needed opportunities to house vulnerable citizens who are without safe and affordable housing.

I would like to emphasize the concern we mentioned at the first hearing on the QAP. The scoring criteria for applications are heavily biased toward distressed areas, empowerment zones, cool cities, etc. We remain concerned that tax credits will be awarded to large projects that promote concentrations of poverty. We also view the criteria to be biased away from Oakland County communities.

As you know, the citizens in Oakland County are strong advocates for inclusive and thus scattered site development. Therefore an additional concern has surfaced after a closer look at addendum IIIA. The procedures appear to give a significant advantage to projects that are 100% supportive housing. We fear this attempt to increase supportive housing in this manner will unfortunately also segregate people with disabilities thus creating isolated communities of poverty.

We ask that you reconsider addendum IIIA as well as other parts of the QAP and insert language that provides incentives for projects that are inclusive and diverse.

Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority as well as its many other Oakland County partner agencies look forward to continued opportunities to dialogue with and form a stronger working relationship with MSHDA.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the QAP.

Sincerely,

Mary Griffiths
Director of Administrative Operations